Claims

1.      An insect swatter comprising:

an elongate rod having a proximal end for being hand-held, and an opposite distal end for being aimed at an insect; and

an elastic lash including a pair of annular rubber bands joined together at a knot therebetween, and having a proximal end fixedly joined to said rod distal end, and an opposite distal end sized for being elastically stretched from said rod distal end to adjacent said rod proximal end so that release of said lash distal end spontaneously contracts said lash for swatting said lash distal end against said insect.

2.      A method of using the swatter of claim 1 comprising:

stretching said lash by pulling said distal end thereof generally parallel to said rod and adjacent to said rod proximal end, and placing said knot mediate said rod;

aiming said rod distal end at said insect; and

releasing said lash distal end to spontaneously contract said lash for swatting said lash distal end against said insect.

3.      A swatter according to claim 1 further comprising:

a latch pivotally joined adjacent to said rod proximal end for releasably latching said lash distal end; and

means for selectively releasing said latch to release said lash distal end for swatting said insect therewith.

4.      A method of using the swatter of claim 3 comprising:

stretching said lash by pulling said distal end thereof generally parallel to said rod and adjacent to said rod proximal end, and placing said knot mediate said rod;

latching said lash distal end to said latch;

aiming said rod distal end at said insect; and

releasing said latch for spontaneously contracting said lash for swatting said insect

with said distal end thereof.

5.      A swatter according to claim 3 further comprising:

a gun handgrip fixedly joined to said rod proximal end;

said latch being pivotally joined to said handgrip; and

wherein said latch releasing means includes a trigger operatively joined to said latch for releasing said latch upon pulling said trigger.

6.      A method of using the swatter of claim 5 comprising:

stretching said lash by pulling said distal end thereof generally parallel to said rod and adjacent to said rod proximal end, and placing said knot mediate said rod;

latching said lash distal end to said latch;

gripping said handgrip to aim said rod distal end at said insect; and

pulling said trigger to release said latch to spontaneously contract said lash for swatting said insect.

7.      A swatter according to claim 5 wherein:

said rod distal end includes a keyhole slot; and

a first one of said rubber bands includes said lash proximal end forming a first loop disposed through said keyhole for fixedly joining said lash to said rod, and a second one of said rubber bands includes said lash distal end forming a second loop positionable around said latch for being retained thereby.

8.      A method of using the swatter of claim 7 comprising:

stretching said lash by pulling said lash second loop generally parallel to said rod and adjacent to said rod proximal end, and placing said knot mediate said rod;

latching said lash second loop around said latch;

gripping said handgrip to aim said rod distal end at said insect; and

pulling said trigger to release said latch to spontaneously contract said lash for swatting said insect.

9.      A swatter according to claim 7 wherein:

said latch extends upwardly from said handgrip;

said keyhole slot is open downwardly in a direction opposite to said upward extension of said latch; and

said lash is inclined upwardly from said keyhole slot to said latch when latched thereto, and said knot is positioned atop said rod.

10.      A swatter according to claim 7 wherein:

said latch is pivotable between a cocked position wherein said latch extends generally perpendicularly to said rod for retaining said lash second loop thereon, and a fired position wherein said latch is inclined forwardly toward said rod distal end for allowing said lash second loop to slip off said latch for spontaneously contracting said lash; and

said trigger is operatively joined to said latch for releasing said latch to pivot from said cocked position thereof to said fired position thereof upon pulling said trigger.

11.      A swatter according to claim 10 wherein said latch includes a thumbgrip extending generally perpendicularly therefrom for manually returning said latch to said cocked position thereof.

12.      A swatter according to claim 11 further comprising:

a spring joined between said trigger and said handgrip;

said trigger being pivotable between a cocked position holding said latch in said cocked position thereof, and a fired position releasing said latch for pivoting said latch to said fired position thereof; and

said spring being positioned for providing a returning force on said trigger to return said trigger to said cocked position thereof upon release of said trigger.

13.      A method of using the swatter of claim 12 comprising:

cocking said thumbgrip to position said latch into said cocked position thereof;

stretching said lash by pulling said lash second loop generally parallel to said rod and adjacent to said rod proximal end, and placing said knot mediate said rod;

latching said lash second loop around said latch;

gripping said handgrip to aim said rod distal end at said insect; and

pulling said trigger to release said latch to said fired position thereof to spontaneously contract said lash for swatting said insect.

14.    A swatter according to claim 12 wherein:

said lash has an unstretched length;

said rod and latch have a collective cocked length measured between said keyhole slot and said latch in said cocked position thereof; and

said cocked length is selected for stretching said lash to about its maximum stretchable length without breaking thereof.

15.    A swatter according to claim 14 wherein said cocked length is at least three times said lash unstretched length.

16.    A swatter according to claim 14 wherein said first and second bands have equal lengths to position said knot midway between said cocked length thereof.